

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 036598

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 0555 ACTION SECSTATE 10 FEB

QUOTE

S E C R E T OTTAWA 0555

NODIS

FOR ARA SECRETARY ROGERS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU PRESS STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA IN CARACAS AND
MEXICO CITY

REF: OTTAWA 0524

1. CHARPENTIER OF EXTAFI RECONFIRMED TO ME TODAY THAT BOTH PEREZ
(IN CARACAS) AND ECHEVERRIA (IN MEXICO CITY) MADE PUBLIC
MENTION OF SUBJECT OF ANGOLA IN RESPECTIVE PRESS CONFERENCES
(JOINT IN CARACAS, SEPARATE IN MEXICO CITY), HELD WITH PRIME

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MINISTER TRUDEAU DURING HIS VISITS THERE. CHARPENTIER

WAS PRESENT AND RECALLS EACH SAYING HE OPPOSED ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. UNFORTUNATELY, CHARPENTIER REPORTS HE MISINFORMED US; HE DOES NOT HAVE TEXTS. HE HAS TEXTS ONLY OF TRUDEAU'S REMARKS, WHICH CONTAIN FOLLOWING REFERENCES TO ANGOLA QUESTION:

A. PRESS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS FEBRUARY 2: BETIN QUOTE BUT IN AREAS WHERE WE (AND THE CUBANS) HAVE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES THEY WERE MADE QUITE CLEAR AND ALMOST BRUTALLY FRANK ON THE ANGOLAN QUESTION, FOR INSTANCE. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN THE CUBANS' MINDS AS TO WHAT OUR POSITION IS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT PARTICULAR CRITICISM HAS BEEN RAISED BACK HOME OR HERE AS YOU SAY IN VENEZUELAN JOURNALS, YOU HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THESE PEOPLE KNOW EACH OTHER, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE INFLUENCED BY MY PARTICULAR WAY OF REACTING TO HOSPITALITY. PRESIDENT PEREZ AND PREMIER CASTRO HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF YEARS AND I BELIEVE THEY WERE BOTH IN EXILE TOGETHER FIGHTING DICTATORSHIPS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. I AM NOT SURE ABOUT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, BUT OBVIOUSLY MEXICO AND CUBA HAVE MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH CUBA, BEING THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE TO DO SO WITH CANADA. I DON'T, QUITE FRANKLY, AT HOME THERE MAY BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, I'LL CLEAR THAT UP IF NEEDS BE WHEN I GET BACK BY REMINDING CANADIANS ONCE AGAIN THAT THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IS THE GOVERNMENT THAT KEPT RELATIONS AND MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH CUBA AND THEREFORE IN A SENSE WE ARE FOLLOWING A BILATERAL POLICY, BY-PARTISAN POLICY. BUT INsofar AS PEOPLE IN THE REGION ARE CONCERNED, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE LEADERS THAT I MET HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS AND HAVE MADE UP THEIR OWN MIND ABOUT CASTRO AND ABOUT HIS ROLE IN ANGOLA AND THEY DON'T NEED MY LEAD TO KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. I THINK THEIR FEARS ARE PERHAPS EVEN GREATER THAN OURS BECAUSE THEY ARE IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN AND THEY ARE PROBABLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THE ANGOLAN INTERVENTION THAN CANADA FROM A MORE REMOVED POSITION IS.

END QUOTE.

B. PRESS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY JANUARY 25 CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO ANGOLA.

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C. PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA JANUARY 26: BEGIN QUOTE

WELL, THE CANADIAN VIEW ON ANGOLA HAS BEEN STATED PUBLICLY BY MACEACHEN AND BY MYSELF TO THOSE WHO ASKED: THAT WE ARE AGAINST MILITARY INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDERS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. WE WERE AGAINST IT PREVIOUSLY, WE REMAIN AGAINST IT NOW, AND WE WILL REMAIN AGAINST IT IN THE FUTURE. WE DON'T

THINK THAT INTERVENTION BY...(BREAK IN TAPE)... LEAD TO AN ENLARGING OF THE HOSTILITIES RATHER THAN A REDUCTION OF THEM. BUT I DON'T EXPECT PREMIER CASTRO TO SHARE MY OPINION, AND I THINK THAT ON MANY AREAS WE WILL HAVE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE. END QUOTE

D. PRESS CONFERENCE IN HAVANA JANUARY 29: BEGIN QUOTE
WELL, THE WAY IN WHICH I WOULD CHARACTERIZE THE TALKS (WITH CASTRO) IS TO USE THE USUAL CLICHE, THEY WERE VERY FRANK AND FULL. BUT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, I THINK THE CLICHE IS MORE THAN THAT, IT IS A REALITY. THERE WAS VERY EXTENSIVE EXPLORATION NOT ONLY OF ANGOLA BUT OF THE WHOLE BALANCE OF POWER IN AFRICA, THE APPRECIATION OF DIFFERENT TRENDS, OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND LEADERS. I FOUND PREMIER CASTRO EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED ON AFRICA. I HAVE SOME SLIGHT KNOWLEDGE OF IT BECAUSE OF MY SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH WELL-KNOWN COMMONWEALTH LEADERS THERE, AND I CERTAINLY WAS IN A POSITION TO APPRECIATE THE QUALITY OF HIS ASSESSMENT OF THESE PEOPLE AND I COULD ADD TO THAT SEVERAL OTHER WORLD LEADERS THAT I KNOW THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR INSTANCE PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, OF JAMAICA. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT PREMIER CASTRO HAD MADE THIS DECISION WITH A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AND OF FEELING FOR THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN AFRICA. YOU KNOW, THIS WASN'T JUST A SHORT, QUICK ANSWER TO A SHORT, QUICK QUESTION; THERE WAS A VERY LENGTHY ATTEMPT ON BOTH SIDES TO INFLUENCE THE OTHER, I SUPPOSE. I CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY MIND ON THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-INTERVENTION, AND I THINK I WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO ASSUME THAT I CHANGED PREMIER CASTRO'S MIND. BUT I CERTAINLY CAME OUT OF THE TALK WITH A MUCH GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE AFRICAN SITUATION VIEWED FROM THE PARTICULAR SOCIALIST POINT OF VIEW OF PREMIER CASTRO, AND I HOPE THAT HE ALSO BENEFITED FROM SOME OF THE IDEAS AND ARGUMENTS THAT I PUT FORTH. END QUOTE

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2. FULL TEXTS ABOVE FOUR PRESS CONFERENCES POUCHED TO YOU TODAY.

3. COMMENT: WILLIAM MADER, TIME MAGAZINE OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF WHO ACCOMPANIED OFFICIAL PARTY, TOLD ME THAT ANGOLA CAME UP AT ECHEVERRIA PRESS CONFERENCE IN QUESTION. IN REPLYING, ECHEVERRIA NEVER USED WORD "ANGOLA", BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM AND WAS OPPOSED TO IT IN PRINCIPLE IN OTHER PLACES.

JOHNSON

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